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ARCHER DEEPIKA WARMS UP FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS IN STYLE

Star archer Deepika Kumari led the show with supreme authority to grab a hat-trick of gold medals as India made a clean sweep at the World Cup Stage 3 in Paris on Sunday

DEEPIKA-ATANU PAIR WINS 1ST GOLD TOGETHER

Eyeing their first-ever gold medal together, Deepika and husband Atanu Das, who are India's best medal hope in archery in the Olympics, bounced back from a 0-2 deficit to down the Netherlands' Sjef van den Berg and Gabriela Schloesser 5-3. That was the only time India faced some challenge as they displayed fine composure to reign supreme

INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY WITH 4 GOLD

- India's gold rush began with the women's recurve team of Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari notching up a comfortable win over Mexico
- The women's recurve team shrugged off the disappointment of missing the Olympics qualification last week

FOUR

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL WC GOLD MEDALS WON BY DEEPIKA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIJAYAPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

In a first, terror attack by drone on Jammu IAF base

Two bombs dropped on airbase in the wee hours of Sunday; security establishment sees it as major escalation; high alert sounded in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN a first terror attack of its kind, two low-intensity improvised explosive devices dropped by drones went off in a highly secure Indian Air Force base in Jammu, about 14 km off the International Border, in the early hours on Sunday.

Both blasts in the technical area of the airbase took place within five minutes of each other. While the first explosion around 1.37 am on an administrative building close to a helicopter hangar left a gaping hole on its roof, the second blast took place around 1.42 am in an open area. Two IAF personnel sustained splinter injuries, but no equipment was damaged.

The security establishment saw in it as a major escalation of the situation. A high alert has been sounded across the state and security cover at airports and government installations have been strengthened.

Shortly after the attack, teams from the IAF, National Bomb Data Centre, forensic experts, J&K police, NIA, NSG and intelligence agencies reached the spot. The NIA is likely to take over the probe.

J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh confirmed it was a terror attack. Sources said investigation agencies are trying to ascertain whether the drones had come from across the International Border or were they remotely controlled from within Jammu by terrorists. How they managed to fly into the IAF station, where IAF personnel have observation posts, without being detected is a mystery.

Sources said security agencies are ascertaining whether the Jaish-e-Mohammad — which carried out the Pathankote airbase attack — was behind the pre-dawn bombing or was Lashkar-e-Taiba involved in it.

It is also being ascertained whether the target was an aircraft hangar or were the bombs intentionally dropped away from aircraft to send a message that there is no such thing as a safe installation any longer.

Whatever the reason, the safety of the IAF station has been breached for the first time in over three decades of militancy in J&K. "The drone attack is a new security challenge for the security agencies. It is a very serious issue and will need serious response," a security official said. P7

Special forces arrive at Jammu Air Force Station on Sunday after the twin blasts | PTI

DRONE DELIVERY OF ARMS BY PAK TROOPS

Since last year, Pakistani troops have been using drones to airdrop arms and ammunition for the militants along the International Border and Line of Control in J&K. In June last year, BSF jawans shot down a drone in Kathua district and recovered a US-made M-4 carbine rifle, two magazines, 60 rounds and seven Chinese grenades from the damaged drone. The weapons were meant for Jaish commander Ali Bhai

Covaxin laggard in vax pool, shows affidavit

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

IN sharp contrast to the claims of Bharat Biotech on ramping up Covaxin's production, only about 2.8 crore of its doses had been made available for the ongoing vaccination drive till June 12. This information was part of the 380-page affidavit the Union health and family welfare ministry filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday.

Of the over 32 crore vaccine doses administered so far, the share of Covishield, produced by Serum Institute of India, is more than 90%.

The latest revelation on Covaxin's low availability indicates the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker has been able to supply only about 50 lakh doses per month so far even though it has been claiming that it is constantly scaling up its manufacturing capacity and had reached 2 crore per month capacity in May.

The Centre issued purchase orders for 8 crore Covaxin doses till July this year in three instalments but the company after supplying the initial order of 1 crore doses over 2 months, was yet to supply 18,36,840 doses of the 2-crore order placed for March-May, as on June 12.

Despite the massive delays, the Centre went ahead and paid an advance amount for 5 crore Covaxin doses between May and July, the affidavit shows. Further, on June 4, the government paid the firm 30% of the total costs for 27 crore doses of Covaxin, at the rate of ₹150 per dose, for supplies between August and December.

The ministry in April had said that Bharat Biotech will produce 2 crore doses a month by May-June and 6-7 crore in July-August, though its capacity that month was 1 crore. A request to Bharat Biotech seeking its response on the slow supplies of Covaxin, has remained unanswered so far.

Meanwhile, the affidavit, scaled down the projected August-December availability of vaccines to 1.35 billion doses from 2.16 billion. It includes 50 crore doses of Covishield and 30 crore doses of Biological E's candidate, which is yet to complete phase 3 trial.

Covishield dose gap cut for students going abroad

The Centre also told the SC that it has relaxed the 12-16 weeks time interval for the second dose of Covishield for athletes bound for Olympics, students undertaking foreign travel for education and persons working abroad

TWITTER'S INTERIM GRIEVANCE OFFICER FOR INDIA QUITS | P7

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 26	JUNE 27
Fresh cases	48,698	50,040
Recoveries	64,818	57,944
Deaths	1,183	1,258

KARNATAKA	JUNE 26	JUNE 27
Fresh cases	4,272	3,604
Recoveries	6,126	7,699
Deaths	115	89

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 26
58,10,378 doses

June 27
64.25 Lakh doses

TOTAL DOSES 32,17,60,077

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and seers of various maths pay homage to a statue of Bengaluru founder Kempegowda at Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Bengaluru Habba to mark founder's birth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

STARTING next year, the Karnataka government will organise a three-day cultural festival to mark Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's birth anniversary. It will be celebrated as 'Bengaluru Habba', announced Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, who is pulling all stops to emerge as the next big Vokkaliga leader in BJP. He is also the vice-chairperson of the Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority.

The announcement was made on Sunday during an event to celebrate the 512th birth anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. On the occasion, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa released a postal envelope bearing the portraits of Kempegowda, and also relaunched the construction work of Kempegowda Study Centre on Jnanabharati campus.

"A 108 ft statue of Kempegowda, for which the chief minister had laid the foundation stone last year, was to be erected by now at the Kempegowda International Airport. But it has been delayed due to Covid. The work on the bronze statue is in progress at Noida (Ram Sutar workstation) and it will be installed by February next year. A central theme park, spread over 23 acres depicting the history of Nadaprabhu's lifetime, will also come up at KIA," said Ashwath Narayan. The government has identified 46 spots as Kempegowda heritage sites and develop them on priority to create a tourism circuit, he added.

"Kempegowda was a visionary and a progressive thinker. His plans for building Bengaluru about 500 years ago stand testimony to the insights he had on urban development and administration," said Yediyurappa.

City swimmer records Olympic timing, but must await approval

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU swimmer **Srihari Nataraj** on Sunday recorded the Olympic Qualifying Time (A cut) in the 100m backstroke at the Setti Colli Championship in Rome. His timing of 53.77 seconds in the requested time trial was better than the A cut timing of 53.85 secs. The timing will be sent to the world swimming body, FINA, which will decide in the coming days whether to accept it or not.

If his timing is okayed by FINA, he will only be the second Indian swimmer after Sajan Prakash, who achieved the feat on Saturday, to attain a direct Olympics berth.

"It will be for FINA to accept the result from the time trial at an approved qualification event. It is done routinely at many accredited meets, as in the recent case of the US Olympics team trials for the 400m freestyle event...," said Monal Chokshi, Secretary-General, Swimming Federation of India. In fact, Srihari had come close in the 100m backstroke a few days ago, falling short of the A mark by just .05 seconds.

Vaxed travellers from Maha can enter State

MAHESH M GOUDAR @ Vijayapura

PEOPLE travelling from Maharashtra to Karnataka who do not have a Covid-negative report but have taken both doses of vaccine will be allowed to enter the State.

After reports of an increase in Delta-Plus variant cases in Maharashtra, Karnataka had issued guidelines to districts sharing the border with Maharashtra that those entering the State should produce a negative RTPCR report not older than 72 hours.

Those who have taken the vaccine but have symptoms will be made to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).

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WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

VILLAGE IDENTITY

Why Malayalam? Stick to Kannada names: Netas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WHAT is in a name? A lot for political parties of Karnataka. As the Kerala government has decided to change Kannada names of villages in Kasargod district with Malayalam-meaning ones, politicians across spectrum in Karnataka kicked up a row, saying that the move smacks of anti-Kannada sentiment.

BJP MP for Mysuru and Kodagu Pratap Simha flagged the issue, appealing to CM BS Yediyurappa to intervene and hold talks with his Kerala counterpart Pinarayai Vijayan to stop the move. "Karnataka should immediately oppose Kerala government's decision and hold talks against this anti-Kannada move," he said.

Names of some 10 villages in Manjeshwar of Kasargod district are being considered to be changed to Malayalam with the same meaning.

JDS leader and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy appealed to the Kerala government to retain the original Kannada names of these villages. "Before Kerala takes up the process, I want to bring certain issues to its notice. Kasaragod is a place that has close ties with Karnataka. We have a cultural bond with the people of Kasaragod," he said. JDS is an alliance partner in the LDF government in Kerala.

"Though Kannada names of villages are being changed into Malayalam, their meaning appears to have been retained. I request the Kerala government to retain the original Kannada names too," he added.

Kasaragod is a place that has close ties with Karnataka. We have a cultural bond with the people of Kasaragod

HD Kumaraswamy